

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) An embossing tool for mechanically embossing ~~a surface covering an article comprising [[:]] a solidified slurry, the solidified slurry being resoluble having a pattern and releasably attached to a backing, and the slurry comprising a filler and a binder.~~
2. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim 1, wherein the solidified slurry is substantially stable at a temperature range of about 200°F to about 450°F.
3. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim 1, ~~wherein the further comprising a backing [[is]] selected from the group consisting of a roll, a drum, a belt, a plate and combinations thereof.~~
4. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim 1, wherein the solidified slurry ~~comprises a filler and a binder is biodegradable.~~
5. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim [[1]] 4, wherein the binder ~~comprises a gelatin is biodegradable.~~

6. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim [[1]] 4, wherein the solidified slurry comprises a binder selected from the group consisting of gelatin, cornstarch and combinations thereof.

*a* Claim 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim [[1]] 4, wherein the filler comprises is selected from the group consisting of clay, limestone and combinations thereof.

9. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim [[1]] 4, wherein the filler has an average mesh size of between ranging from about 20 [[and]] to about 400.

10. (Withdrawn) The embossing tool of claim 9, wherein the embossing tool has at least two different sized fillers.

11. (Withdrawn) The embossing tool of claim 10, wherein a first sized filler has a mesh size ranging from about 20 to about 60 and a second sized filler has a mesh size ranging from about 250 to about 450.

12. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim 1, wherein the solidified slurry pattern is printed in register with a pattern printed on the surface covering article.

13. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim 1, wherein the solidified slurry is recyclable.

14. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim 1, wherein the solidified slurry comprises:

filler from ~~between~~ about [[30]] 54.5% to about [[70]] 93.3% by weight;

~~water from about 5% to about 70% by weight~~; and

a binder from ~~between~~ about [[5]] 6.7% to about [[25]] 45.5% by weight.

15. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The embossing tool of claim 14, wherein the solidified slurry further comprises up to about [[15]] 35.7% by weight of a plasticizer.

16. (Withdrawn - Original) The embossing tool of claim 15, wherein the plasticizer comprises a vegetable oil.

17. (Withdrawn) The embossing tool of claim 1, further including a biocide.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a mechanically embossed surface covering embossing an article comprising pressing a solidified [[:]] printing a slurry in a pattern onto a surface covering or surface covering component; heating the slurry residing on the surface covering; compressing the slurry into the article, the solidified slurry being resoluble surface covering; and removing the slurry.

Claims 19 and 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 42, wherein the solidified slurry is compressed onto pressed into the surface covering article by an embossing a roll.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the embossing roll has a textured surface.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in of claim [[18]] 42, wherein the solidified slurry is compressed onto pressed into the surface covering article by an embossing a belt or embossing plate.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in of claim [[18]] 42, wherein the solidified slurry is applied by screen printing onto the surface covering article.

25. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in of claim [[18]] 42, wherein the slurry comprises a filler and a binder.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 25, wherein the binder is biodegradable.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 42, wherein the slurry is applied to the article in registered registration with a printed pattern on the surface covering article.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 42, wherein the slurry is reclaimed after being removed from the surface covering article.

29. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in of claim [[18]] 42, wherein the article is a surface covering comprises comprising an expandable foam layer, and at least one foaming modifier selected from the group consisting of an inhibitor or and an activator composition disposed as a pattern proximate the foam layer, and wherein the surface covering is expanded and chemically embossed during the heating solidifying step.

30. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in of claim [[18]] 42, wherein the ~~surface covering or surface covering component~~ article is chemically embossed before the slurry is applied.

31. (Currently Amended) A The method of manufacturing a mechanically embossed ~~surface covering~~ claim 18, comprising:

~~printing and solidifying a~~ applying the slurry in a pattern onto a backing;  
solidifying the applied slurry to create an embossing tool; and  
using the embossing tool to mechanically emboss a ~~surface texture onto a surface~~ covering the article.

Claim 32 (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in of claim 31, wherein the backing is selected from the group consisting of a belt, a drum, a roll, a plate and combinations thereof.

34. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in of claim 31, wherein the slurry is applied by screen printing onto the backing.

35. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in of claim 31, wherein the slurry comprises a filler and a binder.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[31]] 35, wherein the binder is biodegradable.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the slurry is printed applied in register with a printed pattern on the surface covering article.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further including removing the solidified slurry after embossing the ~~texture onto the surface covering article~~.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the slurry is reclaimed after being removed from the article.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the surface covering article is chemically embossed.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, further including imparting a differential gloss on the surface covering article.

42. (New) The method of claim 18, comprising:  
printing the slurry onto a surface the article;  
solidifying the slurry residing on the article;

pressing the solidified slurry into the article; and  
then removing the solidified slurry.

43. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the article is a surface covering.

*a*  
44. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the article is a surface covering.

45. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the article is a surface covering.